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an IP stub for translating communications from said hardware interface and said simulator system.

5. The hardware simulation system according to claim 1 wherein the hardware includes peripheral portions and said hardware interface further comprises a communications controller for communicating with said peripheral portions.

6. A method for simulating hardware on which software is to be tested comprising:

- providing a simulated network;
- defining functionality of said simulated network;
- intercepting and redirecting communications between the software and the hardware and returning responses to the hardware and software;
- simulating hardware,
- simulating functionality of said simulated network, and
- generating responses to the software from the hardware.

7. A method for simulating hardware according to claim 6 further comprising:

- maintaining a topology of the simulated network, wherein said topology includes a plurality of nodes and links,
- directing communications among said nodes in said topology, and
- maintaining an operational state of the nodes and links.